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Dated: May 27, 2010
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Attorney Docket No.: 118156-00902
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
James P. Richmond *et al.*

Application No.: 10/627,328

Confirmation No.: 2279

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Art Unit: 2179

For: EDITING A PORTABLE, DYNAMIC AND
ABSTRACT VIEW DEFINITION OF A
NETWORK OBJECT DATABASE

Examiner: S. Termanini

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
IN CONJUNCTION WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed November 27, 2009 (Paper No. 20091120), the response due date of which is extended to May 27, 2010 by the accompanying Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE):

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a user to edit a table defining a view of a network object database including a plurality of network objects types representing one or more portions of a plurality of different types of network devices types on a communications network, the plurality of network objects associated with a plurality of network object types, the method comprising acts of:

(A) providing a user interface that enables the user to specify one or more of the plurality of network object types representing one or more portions of the plurality of different network device types on the communications network; [[and]]

(B) in response to the user specifying the one or more network object types representing one or more portions of the plurality of different network device types on the communications network, editing at least one column of the table to change a value of two or more of the specified plurality of network objects types representing one or more portions of two or more of the plurality of different types of network devices types on the communications network; and

(C) changing the value of the two or more network objects to cause a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the network object database includes a first group of network object types and a second group of network object types, wherein at least one of the network object types belongs to the first group, wherein act (A) includes providing the user interface to enable the user to specify a second object type belonging to the second group, and the method further comprises: [[C]]D in response to the user specifying the second object type, editing a second column of the table to represent the second object type.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein act (A) includes providing the user interface to enable the user to specify the at least one column.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network object database is a Management Information Base.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein act (A) includes providing the user

interface to enable the user to specify a first of the plurality of network object types, the method further comprising acts of:

 ((C))D) determining whether the first network object type is an indexed network object type;

 ((D))E) if the first network object type is an indexed network object type, determining an indexing variable for the first network object type; and

 ((E))F) determining whether the indexing variable determined for the first network object type is compatible with an indexing variable being used for the table, wherein, act (B) includes editing the at least one column based at least in part on results of act ((E))F).

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein act ((E))E) includes determining that the indexing variable of the first network object type is not compatible with the indexing variable being used for the table, and the method further comprises:

 ((F))G) preventing an editing of a column to represent the first network object type based on the results of act ((E))E.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the method further comprises an act of: ((F))G) providing a compatibility table, the compatibility table including one or more entries, each entry corresponding to an indexing variable and storing a compatibility value mapped to the indexing variable corresponding to the entry, wherein act ((E))F) further comprises, accessing an entry of the compatibility table corresponding to the indexing variable of the first network object type and retrieving the compatibility value stored therein, accessing an entry of the compatibility table corresponding to the indexing variable being used by the table retrieving the compatibility value stored therein, and comparing the retrieved compatibility values to determine whether the compatibility values are equal.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: ((C))D) for the at least one column, generating request information for retrieving objects of the at least one network object type represented by the at least one column; and ((D))E) generating a document that includes a definition of the table and the generated request information for the at least one column.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising: ((E))F) providing the

document to one or more network devices on a network.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein act ([E]F) comprises providing the document to at least one of the network devices using electronic mail.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein act ([C]D) includes configuring the request information in accordance with Simple Network Management Protocol.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein act ([D]E) includes formatting the document in accordance with a markup language.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein act ([D]E) includes formatting the document in accordance with Extensible Markup Language (XML).

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein act (A) comprises: providing a graphical user interface to enable the user to select from among the plurality of network object types.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable ~~signals~~ ~~instructions~~ stored thereon ~~that define instructions~~ that, as a result of being executed by a computer, instruct the computer to perform a method of enabling a user to edit a table defining a view of a network object database including a plurality of network objects ~~types~~-representing ~~one or more portions of a plurality of different types of~~ ~~network devices~~~~types~~ on a communications network, the plurality of network objects associated with a plurality of network object types, the method comprising acts of:

(A) providing a user interface that enables the user to specify one or more of the plurality of network object types-representing ~~one or more portions of the plurality of different network device types on the communications network~~; [and]

(B) in response to the user specifying the one or more network object types-representing ~~one or more portions of the plurality of different network device types on the communications network~~, editing at least one column of the table to change set a value of two or more of the specified ~~plurality of network objects~~ ~~types~~-representing one or more portions of two or more of the plurality of different types of ~~network devices~~~~types~~ on the communications network; and

(C) setting the value of the two or more network objects to cause a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a user to edit a table defining a view of a network object database including a plurality of network objects ~~types~~ representing ~~one or more portions of a plurality of different types of network devices~~ ~~types~~ on a communications network, the plurality of network objects associated with a plurality of network object types, the system comprising:

a table editing component to:

enable the user to specify one or more of the plurality of network object types ~~representing one or more portions of the plurality of different network device types on the communications network~~; and,

in response to the user specifying the one or more network object types, ~~representing one or more portions of the plurality of different network device types on the communications network~~, to edit at least one column of the table to change a value of two or more specified of the plurality of network objects ~~types~~ representing one or more portions of two or more of the plurality of different types of network devices ~~types~~ on the communications network; and

change the value of the two or more network objects to cause a change in an operational characteristic of the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices, respectively.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the network object database includes a first group of network object types and a second group of network object types, the at least one of the network object types belonging to the first group, wherein table editing component is further operable to enable the user to specify a second object type belonging to the second group, and, in response to the user specifying the second object type, to edit a second column of the table to represent the second object type.

18. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the table editing component is further operable to enable the user to specify the at least one column.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the network object database is a Management Information Base.
20. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the table editing component is further operable to enable the user to specify a first of the plurality of network object types, wherein the system further comprises an indexing component to determine whether the first network object type is an indexed network object type, to determine, in the event that the first network object type is an indexed network object type, an indexing variable for the first network object type, and to determine whether the indexing variable of the first network object type is compatible with an indexing variable being used by the table, and wherein the table editing component is further operable to edit the at least one column based at least in part on the determination of whether the indexing variable of the first network object type is compatible with the indexing variable used for the table.
21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the indexing component is further operable to determine that the indexing variable of the first network object type is not compatible with the indexing variable being used by the table, and to prevent an editing of a column to represent the first network object type based on the determination of incompatibility.
22. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising: a compatibility table, the compatibility table including one or more entries, each entry corresponding to an indexing variable and storing a compatibility value mapped to the indexing variable corresponding to the entry, wherein the indexing component is further operative to access an entry of the compatibility table corresponding to the indexing variable of the first network object type and retrieve the compatibility value stored therein, to access an entry of the compatibility table corresponding to the indexing variable being used by the table and retrieve the compatibility value stored therein, and to compare two retrieved compatibility values to determine whether the compatibility values are equal.
23. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising: a request component to generate request information for retrieving objects of the at least one network object type; and a document generation component to generate a document that includes a definition of the table and the

request information.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the document generation component is operable to configure the document to be transmittable to one or more network devices on a network.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the document generation component is operable to configure the document to be transmittable to at least one of the network devices using electronic mail.

26. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the request component is operable to configure the request in accordance with Simple Network Management Protocol.

27. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the document generation component is operable to format the document in accordance with a markup language.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27, the document generation component is operable to format the document in accordance with Extensible Markup Language (XML).

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the system further comprises a graphical user interface to enable the user to select from among the plurality of network object types.

30. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a user to edit a table defining a view of a network object database including a plurality of network objects-types, the plurality of network objects associated with a plurality of network object types, the system comprising:

a table editing component to edit at least one column of the table to change a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects-types specified by the user that represent one or more portions of two or more of a plurality of different types of network devices-types on a communications network, the change in the value causing a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices; and

means for enabling the user to specify the at least one or more of the plurality of network object types to represent one or more portions of the plurality of different network device types

~~on the communications network.~~

31. (Currently Amended) A method of editing a portable view definition of a network object database including a plurality of network objects~~types~~, the method comprising acts of:

(A) editing a column of a table defining a view of the network object database, the editing changing to change a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects~~types~~ representing one or more portions of two or more a plurality of different types of network devices~~types~~ on a communications network, the change in the value causing a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices;

(B) generating request information for retrieving the two or more network objects of the one network object type representing the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devicesplurality of different network device types on the communications network; and

(C) generating a document that includes a definition of the table, the table definition including the generated request information and a definition of the column of the table.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising: (D) providing a user interface to the user to enable the user to specify the one network object type.

33. (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising: (D) storing the document on a computer-readable medium.

34. (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising: (D) providing the document to one or more network devices on a network.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein act (D) comprises providing the document to at least one of the network devices using electronic mail.

36. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the database is a Management Information Base.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein act (B) includes configuring the request information in accordance with Simple Network Management Protocol.

38. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein act (B) includes configuring the request information in accordance with Simple Network Management Protocol.

39. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein act (C) includes formatting the document in accordance with a markup language.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein act (C) includes formatting the document in accordance with Extensible Markup Language (XML).

41. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable signals instructions stored thereon that define instructions that, as a result of being executed by a computer, instruct the computer to perform a method of editing a portable view definition of a network object database including a plurality of network objects types representing one or more portions of a plurality of different types of network devices types on a communications network, the method comprising acts of:

(A) editing a column of a table defining a view of the network object database, the editing to change changing a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects types that represent one or more portions of two or more of the plurality of different types of network devices types on the communications network, the change in the value causing a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices;

(B) generating request information for retrieving the two or more network objects of the one network object type to represent representing the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices plurality of different network device types on the communications network; and

(C) generating a document that includes a definition of the table, the table definition including the generated request information and a definition of the column of the table.

42. (Currently Amended) A system for editing a portable view definition of a network object database including a plurality of network objects types representing one or more portions of a plurality of different types of network devices types on a communications network, the system comprising:

a table editing component to edit a column of a table defining a view of the network object database, the editing changing a value of to change two or more of the plurality of network objects types-representing one or more portions of two or more of the plurality of different types of network devices types on the communications network, the change in the value causing a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices;

a request component to generate request information for retrieving the two or more network objects representing the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices-of the-one-network-object-type-representing-one-or-more-portions-of the plurality of different network device types on the communications network; and

a document generation component to generate a document that includes a definition of the table, the definition of the table including the generated request information and a definition of the column of the table.

43. (Currently Amended) A system for editing a portable view definition of a network object database including a plurality of network objects types-representing one or more portions of a plurality of different types of network devices types on a communications network, the system comprising:

a table editing component to edit a column of a table defining a view of the network object database, the editing changing to change a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects types-representing one or more portions of two or more of the plurality of different types of network devices types on the communications network, the change in the value causing a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices;

a request component to generate request information for retrieving the two or more network objects representing the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices-of the-one-network-object-type-representing-different-network-device-types-on the-communications-network; and

means for generating a document that includes a definition of the table, the table definition including the generated request information and a definition of the column of the table.

44. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of computer-readable ~~signals instructions defining a document for comprising:~~

~~a table editing component to edit a column of a table defining a view of a network object database, the network object database including a plurality of network objects representing different types of network devices on a communications network, the editing changing a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects representing one or more portions of two or more of the different types of network devices, the change in the value causing a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices; and~~

~~a definition of [[a]]the table-representing a view of a network object database including a plurality of network object types, the table definition including a definition of the[[a]] column of the table-representing one of the network object types of the network object database representing one or more portions of a plurality of different network device types on a communications network and request information for retrieving the two or more network objects representing the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices of the network object type represented by the column.~~

45. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices comprises:

 a change in an operational characteristic of the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices.

46. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices comprises:

 a change in an operational characteristic of the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices.

REMARKS

In this Response, Applicants amend claims 1, 2, 5-13, 15, 16, 30, 31, and 40-44, and add new claims 45 and 46. No new matter has been added. Support for the claim amendments can be found at least in Applicants' Figure 9 and related text.

Claims 1-46 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 15, 16, 30, 31, and 41-44 are independent. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

I. Telephone Interview with Examiner

An Examiner interview was conducted via telephone on February 23, 2010. During the interview, Applicants described the salient features of Applicants' previously presented claim 1, and argued that U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0161876 to Raymond et al. (hereafter "Raymond") does not disclose, teach or suggest changing two or more network object types representing one or more portions of a plurality of different network device types, as recited in Applicants' previously presented claim 1.

II. Amendments to the Claims

Applicants amend independent claim 1 to clarify that editing the at least one column of the table changes a value of two or more network objects. The two or more network objects represent one or more portions of two or more different types of network devices. Changing the value of the two or more network objects causes a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices. In this manner, for example, a network administrator may change or initiate settings of network objects representing different types of network devices. The change or initiation of the settings, in turn, causes a change in the different types of network devices themselves. This allows the network administrator to readily configure network devices of different network device types.

Similar amendments have been made to the other independent claims.

III. Objection to the Claims

Claims 15, 41, and 44 are objected to because the broadest reasonable interpretation of the term “readable medium” allegedly conveys to one of ordinary skill in the art that the claims are devoid of any physical element (Office Action, page 2). Applicants amend claims 15, 41, and 44 to recite a “computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions stored thereon.” No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 15, 41, and 44 each recite the subject matter of a computer-readable medium, which is a physical object. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 15, 41, and 44.

Claims 12, 28, and 40 are objected to because the term “XML” should be spelled out (Office Action, page 2). Applicants note that the Examiner is likely referring to claim 13 in the objection, as opposed to claim 12, because claim 12 does not recite the term “XML.” Applicants amend claims 13, 28, and 40 to replace the recitation of “XML” with “Extensible Markup Language (XML).” No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 13, 28, and 40 do not recite acronyms. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 13, 28, and 40.

IV. Rejection of Claims 1-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Raymond (Office Action, page 3). Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 1-44 as set forth below. Each respective claim-set is discussed separately below.

A. Claims 1-14

Applicants respectfully submit that Raymond fails to disclose or suggest at least the following features of amended independent claim 1: “(B) in response to the user specifying the one or more network object types, editing at least one column of the table to change a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects representing one or more portions of two or more of the different types of network devices” and “(C) changing the value of the two or more network objects to cause a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices.”

Raymond discusses a service information portal for providing customer-based network management information for networked computing environments (Raymond, abstract). In Raymond, a portal view profile is a file that, when invoked, obtains or generates network management information from network entities for viewing by a network administrator (Raymond, paragraph 100). The portal view profile may include parameters that specify how the management information is to be displayed (Raymond, paragraph 101). In addition, a portal view specification file defines the grammar used in a portal view profile, e.g., specifying whether data from unknown sources will be displayed (Raymond, paragraphs 102 and 104). A portal view edit manager enables a network administrator to modify a portal view profile (Raymond, paragraph 94).

However, Raymond does not allow changing a value of a network object that, in turn, causes a change in a portion of a network device. Raymond allows *viewing* network management information and *customizing views* of management information based on a user ID (Raymond, paragraphs 96 and 97), but does not allow *causing a change in a portion of a network device itself*. In other words, although Raymond allows viewing network management information in customized views, Raymond does not allow configuring the actual network devices themselves. For example, Figures 12A-12C and 13 in Raymond illustrate portal view displays that display management information, but that do not allow changing a value of a network object to cause a change in a portion of a network device (Raymond, Figures 12A-12C and 13, and related text).

In contrast, the change in the value of the network objects, as recited in Applicants' claim 1, causes a change in one or more portions of two or more different types of network devices. That is, as recited in Applicants' claim 1, the change in the network objects causes a change in the network devices themselves. Raymond does not disclose or suggest that changing a value of network objects can cause a change in portions of the network devices themselves. More specifically, Raymond does not disclose or suggest changing a value of two or more network objects to cause a change in one or more portions of two or more different types of network devices, as required by claim 1.

As such, Raymond does not disclose or suggest "(B) in response to the user specifying the one or more network object types, editing at least one column of the table to change a value

of two or more of the plurality of network objects representing one or more portions of two or more of the different types of network devices” and “(C) changing the value of the two or more network objects to cause a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices,” as recited in claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Raymond fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of independent claim 1.

Claims 2-14 depend from claim 1 and, as such, include each and every patentable feature of claim 1. For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Raymond fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claims 2-14.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 1-14.

B. Claim 15

Applicants respectfully submit that Raymond fails to disclose or suggest at least the following features of amended independent claim 15: “(B) in response to the user specifying the one or more network object types, editing at least one column of the table to set a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects representing one or more portions of two or more of the different types of network devices” and “(C) setting the value of the two or more network objects to cause a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices.” As set forth above in connection with claim 1, Raymond does not disclose or suggest these features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claim 15.

C. Claims 16-29

Applicants respectfully submit that Raymond fails to disclose or suggest at least the following features of amended independent claim 16: “in response to the user specifying the one or more network object types, edit at least one column of the table to change a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects representing one or more portions of two or more of the different types of network devices” and “change the value of the two or more network objects to cause a change in an operational characteristic of the one or more portions of the two or more

different types of network devices.” As set forth above in connection with claim 1, Raymond does not disclose or suggest these features.

Claims 17-29 depend from claim 16 and, as such, include each and every patentable feature of claim 16. For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 16, Raymond fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claims 17-29.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 16-29.

D. Claim 30

Applicants respectfully submit that Raymond fails to disclose or suggest at least the following feature of amended independent claim 30: “a table editing component to edit at least one column of the table to change a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects that represent one or more portions of two or more different types of network devices on a communications network, the change in the value causing a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices.” As set forth above in connection with claim 1, Raymond does not disclose or suggest this feature. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claim 30.

E. Claims 31-40

Applicants respectfully submit that Raymond fails to disclose or suggest at least the following feature of amended independent claim 31: “(A) editing a column of a table defining a view of the network object database, the editing changing a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects representing one or more portions of two or more different types of network devices on a communications network, the change in the value causing a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices.” As set forth above in connection with claim 1, Raymond does not disclose or suggest this feature.

Claims 32-40 depend from claim 31 and, as such, include each and every patentable feature of claim 31. For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 31, Raymond fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claims 32-40.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 31-40.

F. Claim 41

Applicants respectfully submit that Raymond fails to disclose or suggest at least the following feature of amended independent claim 41: “(A) editing a column of a table defining a view of the network object database, the editing changing a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects that represent one or more portions of two or more of the different types of network devices on the communications network, the change in the value causing a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices.” As set forth above in connection with claim 1, Raymond does not disclose or suggest this feature.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claim 41.

G. Claim 42

Applicants respectfully submit that Raymond fails to disclose or suggest at least the following feature of amended independent claim 42: “a table editing component to edit a column of a table defining a view of the network object database, the editing changing a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects representing one or more portions of two or more of the different types of network devices on the communications network, the change in the value causing a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices.” As set forth above in connection with claim 1, Raymond does not disclose or suggest this feature. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claim 42.

H. Claim 43

Applicants respectfully submit that Raymond fails to disclose or suggest at least the following feature of amended independent claim 43: “a table editing component to edit a column of a table defining a view of the network object database, the editing changing a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects representing one or more portions of two or more of the different types of network devices on the communications network, the change in the value

causing a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices.” As set forth above in connection with claim 1, Raymond does not disclose or suggest this feature. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claim 43.

I. Claim 44

Applicants respectfully submit that Raymond fails to disclose or suggest at least the following feature of amended independent claim 44: “a table editing component to edit a column of a table defining a view of a network object database, the network object database including a plurality of network objects representing different types of network devices on a communications network, the editing changing a value of two or more of the plurality of network objects representing one or more portions of two or more of the different types of network devices, the change in the value causing a change in the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices.” As set forth above in connection with claim 1, Raymond does not disclose or suggest this feature. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claim 44.

V. New Claims 45 and 46

Applicants respectfully submit that Raymond fails to disclose, teach or suggest new claims 45 and 46.

Claim 45 depends from claim 1 and, as such, includes each and every patentable feature of claim 1. For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Raymond fails to disclose, teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 45.

Claim 46 depends from claim 15 and, as such, includes each and every patentable feature of claim 15. For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 15, Raymond fails to disclose, teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 46.

Furthermore, Raymond does not disclose, teach or suggest the following additional feature recited in new claims 45 and 46: “the change... comprises: a change in an operational characteristic of the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices.” That is, the change in the value of the two or more network objects causes a change in an

operational characteristic of the one or more portions of the two or more different types of network devices. Although Raymond discusses displaying network management information, Raymond does not disclose, teach or suggest changing an operational characteristic of a portion of a network device itself. More specifically, Raymond does not disclose, teach or suggest changing an operational characteristic of one or more portions of two or more different types of network devices, as required by new claims 45 and 46.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a teleconference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' attorney at (617) 449-6500.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-4876, under Order No. 118156-00902. In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith, and the requisite petition does not accompany this response, the undersigned hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely.

Dated: May 27, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By: /David R. Burns/
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